



Home Works

BUILDING CHARACTER | EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

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Home Works

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Home Works organizes work blitz in Columbia Columbia, S.C.

Home Works, a faith-based organization that repairs homes of the elderly and disadvantaged, held a one-day work blitz in Columbia, S.C. on Saturday, April 28.

The Columbia work blitz is part of Home Works' Spring Blitz schedule that also held work blitzes in Aiken, Fort Mill, Rock Hill and Myrtle Beach, S.C. on the same day. In addition to the April 28 initiative, homes were also repaired in Camden, Charleston and Greenville.

“Miracle, after miracle, after miracle, [by using] hammers and nails and paint brushes, [and] teens and adults, not only are homes repaired but more importantly restored hope to the elderly and disadvantaged homeowners,” said Hank Chardos, Founder and Executive Director of Home Works.

One-day work blitzes involve basic construction work such as plumbing, caulking, housecleaning, roofing, painting and spending time in prayer and laughter with the homeowners. “The Home Works program did more for me than repair my home, they repaired my spirit as well,” said homeowner Betty J. Bickley.

Registration and volunteer forms are offered on Home Works' Web site at www.HomeWorksofAmerica.org. Volunteers must be at least 13-years-old to participate in a one-day work blitz, and a \$15 fee is needed to cover project costs. For those who would like to participate in a summer week-long session, volunteers must be at least 14-years-old and pay a donation of \$150.

Home Works began in 1996 and has repaired over 900 houses with 14,000 volunteers helping those homeowners in need. “Repairs are made within an ecumencial spirit...as individuals of all faith backgrounds join together to be a service to others,” according to Home Works Web site. Home Works works in collaboration with local churches, agencies, and city and state organizations and has expanded its geographic area to include cities in Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina and Peru.



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BACKGROUNDER

What Is Home Works?

Home Works is a faith-based organization that provides home repairs for the elderly and disadvantaged through volunteers, donations, and corporate sponsorships. Through its volunteer program, the organization strives to “assist youth in their development and empowering communities to meet the needs of its members.”

How Did It Begin?

The organization began in 1996 as Home Works of South Carolina but changed its name in October 2006 to reflect its expanding geographic area. Its founder, Hank Chardos, created the organization after attending a home-repair Salkehatchie mission trip with his oldest daughter, Jennifer. In 1996, Chardos organized the first work session of repairing homes in Johns Island, South Carolina and recruited 110 volunteers with the help of Our Lady of Mercy Outreach.

How Has It Grown?

Home Works began working in collaboration with local service organizations, city and state government agencies and continued growing in size and adding partnerships. In 2000, the organization started a work session in Zorritos, Peru to repair homes with other local churches. Home Works has also expanded its program to include work sessions in Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina and Peru. The repair sessions are ecumenical in spirit, held throughout the year and vary in length from one day to two weeks. Home Works received the *South Carolina Secretary of State's Angel's Award* for spending nearly 98 cents of every dollar on its program in 2004. Then, in 2006, an anonymous donor pledged to fund staff salaries for a three-year period on a decreasing scale. Also beginning in 2006 The Benjamin Lilease & Hall Foundation was established. The children of Benjamin and LiLease Hall set up a fund in honor of their parents' 60th wedding anniversary. Starting in 2007, the Foundation funds repairs to 100 houses over a two-year period and sponsors repairs of three church units that provide senior care. The Benjamin Lilease & Hall Foundation also finances the salary of a Home Works Project Director, the person who oversees the activities of work sessions. Without supporters' generosity towards Home Works, the organization would not be where it is today; having the resources to help hundreds of homeowners and church facilities.

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EXECUTIVE BIOGRAPHY

STAFF

Hank Chardos is the founder and Executive Director of Home Works. Hank is responsible for the overall operations of Home Works and its growth into the future. He retired from the Internal Revenue Service after more than 31 years of employment. Hank and his wife Sally have five children and nine grandchildren. Hank's e-mail address is H.Chardos@HomeWorksUSA.net.

Hector "Tito" Garcia is the Program Director for Home Works. Tito is responsible for the overall work repair program which includes the volunteers, community entities and the homeowners being served. Tito is retired from the U.S. Army and speaks both English and Spanish. Tito is married with three children and has been volunteering with Home Works for over eight years with both the domestic and international repair programs. Tito's e-mail address is T.Garcia@HomeWorksUSA.net.

Patricia Pearson is the Executive Assistant for Hank Chardos yet fills many roles as the Home Works office works in a team environment. Patricia has recently moved to South Carolina and is married. Patricia's e-mail address is P.Pearson@HomeWorksUSA.net.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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(Information was taken from Home Works' Web site at www.homeworksofamerica.org)

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FACT SHEET

“The mission of Home Works is to show God’s love for all through service to others and to assist others in their faith journey. Home Works’ activities will focus on providing home repairs to homeowners in need, assisting youth in their development and empowering communities to meet the needs of its members.”

-Home Works’ Web site

- Home Works began in 1996 and has served more than 900 homeowners.
- Home Works covers the following areas:
 - South Carolina: Aiken, Camden, Cayce, Chapin, Charleston, Columbia, Fort Mill, Greenville, Irmo, Johns Island, Lexington, Myrtle Beach, Rock Hill, Surfside Beach, Wadmalaw Island and West Columbia
 - North Carolina: Fayetteville and Valle Crucis
 - Georgia: Augusta
 - Louisiana: Covington, New Orleans and Slidell
 - Peru: Zorritos
- The program makes repairs on houses at no cost such as roofing, repairing walls, painting, fixing windows, plumbing, electrical, installing wheelchair ramps, smoke detectors and floors.
- In 2004, Home Works received the *South Carolina Secretary of State's Angel's Award* for spending nearly 98 cents of every dollar on its program.
- Partnerships exist on three levels: donated labor, cash, and in-kind donations.

Donated labor is needed for electrical, plumbing, roofing, flooring, carpentry, masonry and heating and air conditioning. However, volunteers are not required to have construction experience.

Cash donations are needed to purchase materials that are not donated and to pay for third-party labor that cannot be acquired through volunteers. The out-of-pocket cost of building materials to make repairs is approximately \$900 per home.

In-kind donations of new or gently-used materials, equipment, food, and safety items are needed for the home repairs. Examples are nails, paint, power tools, ladders, water, fruit, first-aid supplies, safety gloves, etc.

- Home Works had two emergency work sessions after Hurricane Katrina in December 2005 and March 2006 in Louisiana and this is now a permanent week-long session in the month of March.
- Corporate Sponsors include: SeaCo, Lizard's Thicket, Echerer Painting Company, Mungo Homes, Bank of America, First Citizens Bank, Colite International, LTD., Solectron USA, Inc. and Ellis, Lawhorne & Associates Law Firm.

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How to Become Involved:

Volunteers must be at least 13-years-old to participate in a one-day blitz and 14-years-old to participate in a summer week-long session. The age limitation is waived when a parent, youth minister, or older sibling accompanies the youth.

No construction experience is required.

Youth and adult registrations packets, which include instructions, youth pledge, registration form, sexual abuse affidavit form, background check form and release of liability form, are available online at www.HomeWorksofAmerica.org.

The fee is \$15 per individual for a one-day session and \$150 for a summer week-long session to cover program costs. Receipt of both documents and fee reserves a spot for the session.

Tools and equipment are provided, but volunteers are encouraged to bring gloves and paintbrushes of their own.

To ensure a safe and productive environment, the ratio is one adult per three middle-school-aged youth and one adult per five high-school-aged youth.

It is important to wear appropriate work clothes such as t-shirts, shorts and tennis shoes.

Many opportunities to volunteer besides construction are available such as creating presentations for Home Works, organizing fundraisers or being a volunteer coordinator. The [Volunteer Sign Up Form](#) lists other ways to become involved with Home Works.

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